

CLAIMS:

1. A borderless inkjet printer, comprising:
a printhead movable to release ink drops on a print medium, and to
5 release ink drops slightly beyond edges of the print medium in order to ensure
edge-to-edge printing on the print medium; and
a air flow generator that generates a constant airstream with
direction and force so that ink drops released slightly beyond edges of the print
medium are carried away by the constant airstream to prevent the drops from
10 clinging to any edge of the print medium.
2. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 1, wherein a
medium support supports the print medium within the constant airstream in order
that edges of the print medium are subjected to the constant airstream.
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3. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 2, wherein a
sump is positioned relative to said medium support to collect ink drops that are
carried by the constant airstream away from edges of the print medium.
- 20 4. A borderless print as recited in claim 2, wherein a gutter
surrounds said medium support, including surrounding edges of the print medium,
to collect ink drops that are carried by the constant airstream.
5. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 1, wherein
25 said air flow generator includes an enclosure for said printhead and the print
medium, and an air exhaust from said enclosure cooperates with an air intake into
said enclosure to generate the constant airstream.
6. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 5, wherein
30 said enclosure includes a sump to collect ink drops that are carried by the constant
airstream away from edges of the print medium.

7. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 5, wherein a platen for supporting the print medium is located within said enclosure.

5 8. A borderless inkjet printer, comprising:
a printhead movable to release ink drops on a print medium, and to overspray ink drops relative to edges of the print medium in order to ensure edge-to-edge printing on the print medium; and
a air flow generator that generates a constant airstream with
10 direction and force adjacent edges of the print medium so that ink drops oversprayed relative to edges of the print medium are prevented by the constant airstream from clinging to any edge of the print medium or even migrating to an underside of the print medium.

15 9. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 8, wherein a medium support supports the print medium in the constant airstream so that at least edges of the print medium are subjected to the constant airstream.

10 10. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 9 wherein a gravity drain is open proximate said printhead to receive ink drops oversprayed relative to edges of the print medium, said medium support is located within said gravity drain, and said air flow generator exhausts air from said gravity drain to cause the constant airstream to flow from said printhead into said gravity drain.

25 11. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 10, wherein a sump is in airtight communication with said gravity drain and is positioned below said gravity drain to receive ink drops from said gravity drain.

30 12. A borderless inkjet printer as recited in claim 10, wherein a continuous space exists between said medium support and said gravity drain defines a gutter that receives ink drops oversprayed relative to edges of the print medium.

13. A borderless inkjet printer, comprising:
an enclosure;
a printhead movable within said enclosure to release ink drops on a
5 print medium within said enclosure, and to release ink drops slightly beyond
edges of the print medium in order to ensure edge-to-edge printing on the print
medium; and
a air flow generator that generates a constant air flow into and out
of said enclosure to create a constant airstream within said enclosure that carries
10 away ink drops released slightly beyond edges of the print medium to prevent the
drops from clinging to any edge of the print medium.

14. A borderless inkjet printing method, comprising:
moving a printhead to release ink drops on a print medium, and to
15 overspray ink drops relative to edges of the print medium in order to ensure edge-
to-edge printing on the print medium; and
generating a constant airstream with direction and force adjacent
edges of the print medium so that ink drops oversprayed relative to edges of the
print medium are prevented by the constant airstream from clinging to any edge of
20 the print medium.

15. A borderless inkjet printing method, comprising:
moving a printhead to release ink drops on a print medium, and to
release ink drops slightly beyond edges of the print medium in order to ensure
25 edge-to-edge printing on the print medium;
generating a constant airstream with direction and force so that ink
drops released slightly beyond edges of the print medium are carried away by the
constant airstream to prevent the drops from clinging to any edge of the print
medium; and
30 collecting ink drops carried by the constant airstream in order to
reuse them.

16. A borderless inkjet printing method, comprising:
- moving a printhead within an enclosure to release ink drops on a print medium within the enclosure, and to release ink drops slightly beyond edges of the print medium in order to ensure edge-to-edge printing on the print medium;
- 5 and
- generating a constant air flow into and out of the enclosure to create a constant airstream within the enclosure that carries away ink drops released slightly beyond edges of the print medium to prevent the drops from clinging to any edge of the print medium.